

## Agreement Governing Participation in a Bates Fall Semester Program

Participation on a Bates Fall Semester Abroad Program is an exciting opportunity. It is also a commitment to live and study for a semester in ways that are often fundamentally distinct from those operating in the United States. The objective of this form is to inform (or remind) you of some of the key aspects of the Bates Fall Semester Abroad Program. Your signature on the back of this page confirms your enrollment in the program and your acceptance of the terms of participation outlined below. While this may appear to be overly formal, the principal intent is to ensure that you are aware of the expectations of the program and key college policies.

Instruction is provided by Bates faculty and host country nationals. The program is a serious academic undertaking with all grades included in your Bates Grade Point Average. The four courses are co-requisites for one another as they are closely linked and mutually supportive. Special permission is required to alter the four course load. With departmental approval, the courses may be applied toward major or minor requirements. They satisfy one General Education Concentration requirement.

The cultural immersion, language learning, and field orientation of the program result in special expectations and responsibilities for students. Students must adapt to the cultural expectations and patterns of the host country and be responsive, in particular, to the expectations and values of their host families. Similarly, students should expect foreign language faculty to have different teaching styles and expectations. Rather than just taking four courses, participants make a commitment for a semester of involvement with field trips, excursions with families, and many other extracurricular activities. Through all of this, students need to be flexible and to appreciate that even the best organized plans often change in the field.

Health and safety concerns are magnified abroad because of the change in routine, the demands of the different environment, tasks that may be part of the course, the distance from medical care, the lack of counseling services and other accommodations that are available on campus. For these reasons, students are required to submit a "Physician's Report" to faculty member leading the course. In addition, you are required to authorize the release of medical information and to provide emergency care while on the program. You should talk with the program directors if you have any questions or concerns about health issues, access to medications, or the availability of counseling or special diets abroad.

You need to have health insurance that provides coverage in all the countries included in the program. The student health insurance provided through Bates includes coverage up to the limits of the policy. If you are covered under your family's policy, you need to confirm that it applies abroad. If it does not, you may purchase policy for the semester from CMI Insurance Worldwide ([www.cmi-insurance.com](http://www.cmi-insurance.com)) or [www.HTHworldwide.com](http://www.HTHworldwide.com)

Accidents are a greater threat and hassle abroad with uncertain hospital care, travel on crutches, and the like. On a program, the careless actions of one person can undermine the experience of the entire group. Similarly, personal safety is a serious issue. You may not view yourself as a wealthy American, but others will. This fact is compounded by less familiarity with the program's language, location, and street culture. Students are expected to abide by the laws of the host country, to be cautious, to avoid risky behaviors and situations, and to follow the safety and travel advice of the faculty directors for the duration of the program. Association with, use, or sale of illicit drugs places the entire program at risk and may result in expulsion from the program. Respect for foreign laws, faculty guidelines, and safety precautions are essential.

The program cost is the Bates semester "single fee." The program pays for roundtrip airfare from the program's U.S. city of departure, tuition, room and board, program field trips, and visa expenses. Passport, books, personal and health expenses, and travel unrelated to the program are not included. A \$500 non-refundable deposit is charged to your account upon receipt of this form to confirm your participation on the program. (The \$500 is deducted from the program charge.) If you withdraw before the program begins, the college retains the deposit and charges you for non-recoverable expenditures that have been made on your behalf. Other than this, the College's standard refund policy applies: 90% refund in the first 10 days of the program, 75% in the next 10 days, 50% in the next 10 days, 25% in the next 20 days, no refund after 50 days. Any savings that result from lower than expected costs are returned to the College to offset the subsidy that it provides for these programs.

The College may withdraw a student from the program at any time if their behavior is inconsistent with these expectations or their health is not suitable for the demands or location of the course. While abroad, the responsibilities of the Deans of Students, Academic Standing Committee, and Student Conduct Committee are assumed by the program director. This individual has ultimate authority to adjudicate academic and social issues, with potential resolutions up to and including dismissal from the program with immediate return to the United States with no credit for uncompleted courses.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ (Parents/guardians must sign if student is under 18)

Name (please print) \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Please return this form to the Off-Campus Study Office in 124 Roger Williams Hall to confirm your participation of the program